

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 016156
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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. OPEC: US SHOULD LET THE MARKET DO THE WORK

NOTING THAT THE SHAH SEEMS TO BE PLAYING A WAITING GAME
WITH REGARD TO THE OPEC PRICING SYSTEM, EMBASSY TEHRAN
SUGGESTS THE US DO THE SAME. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY:

--NORMAL MARKET FORCES HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF IN-
FLUENCING OPEC PRICES.

--A US MANEUVER TO AFFECT PRICES COULD PROVIDE AMMU-
NITION FOR OPEC HARDLINERS AND UNDERCUT MORE MODERATE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 016156

VOICES.

--ASPIRATIONS OF THE HARDLINERS ARE NOT LIKELY TO
CHANGE IN ANY CASE, SO THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM
SHOULD BE CONSISTENT AND ABOVEBOARD.

THE EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THE US SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE

MAJOR OIL COMPANIES TO INCREASE THEIR PRESSURE ON THE OPEC ELEVEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 734, 1/24.)

2. CHARTER 77 HURTS PRAGUE'S IMAGE

EMBASSY PRAGUE REPORTS THAT CHARTER 77 HAS MOVED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AS ITS SUBSCRIBERS SEEK SUPPORT FROM ABROAD AND THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO LINK THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT WITH EXTERNAL FORCES. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT FOREIGN REACTION TO CHARTER 77, ESPECIALLY THAT OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS, DEMONSTRATES THAT THE CHARTER REPRESENTS A LITMUS TEST FOR THE EUROPEAN LEFT. IF THE ATMOSPHERE WORSENS, NATO AND NEUTRAL SIGNATORIES OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT MAY NOT IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNPOPULAR PRAGUE REGIME. RECENT CRITICISM BY FOREIGN MINISTER THORN OF LUXEMBOURG DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRAGUE, COUPLED WITH THE POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF VISITS BY OTHER HIGH EUROPEAN OFFICIALS, MAY INDICATE THAT THIS PROCESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN. (CONFIDENTIAL) PRAGUE 216, 1/24.)

3. KAUNDA BEATS DRUMS FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT

IN TOURING WEST AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS MADE STATEMENTS SUGGESTING ZAMBIAN SUCCESS IN GAINING RECOGNITION FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF). EMBASSY LUSAKA REPORTS THAT, WHILE PARTIALLY TRUE, THESE STATEMENTS DO NOT REFLECT THE LUKEWARM RESPONSE FROM NIGERIA AND GHANA AND THE OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION OF LIBERIA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 016156

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN VIEW OF NIGERIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CLOUD, ITS FAILURE TO ENDORSE THE PF COULD BE A SETBACK. LIBERIA'S ATTITUDE SHOWS THE FRONTLINE STATES MUST LOBBY ASSIDUOUSLY TO OBTAIN OAU BACKING AT ITS MEETING THIS WEEKEND. DESPITE THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME STATES, HOWEVER, A SOLID SHOWING BY MACHEL, NYERERE, AND KAUNDA WILL BE HARD FOR OTHER OAU MEMBERS TO RESIST. (CONFIDENTIAL) LUSAKA 207, 1/24.)

4. SUHARTO REASSURES TIMOROUS PAPUANS

AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO, IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) PRESIDENT SOMARE, SOUGHT PNG RECOGNITION OF THE TIMOR "INCORPORATION" AND ASSURANCE THAT PNG TERRITORY WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANTI-INDONESIAN ACTIVITIES. SUHARTO ALSO REASSURED SOMARE THAT INDONESIA WAS NOT EXPANSIONIST.

SOMARE TOLD SUHARTO THAT PNG POLICY WAS ONE OF "NON-

INVOLVEMENT" AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TIMOR WAS "INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIR." HE ADDED THAT THE PNG WILL NOT SEEK TO JOIN ASEAN NOW, BUT WILL KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIP AT A LATER DATE. (CONFIDENTIAL) JAKARTA 1056 (LIMDIS), 1/24.)

5. GUYANA SEEKS COMECON TIE

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GUYANA CHRONICLE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HOYTE STATED THAT GUYANA IS SEEKING AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC MUTUAL ASSISTANCE (CEMA). HE SAID ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, NOT IDEOLOGY, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOVE.

EMBASSY GEORGETOWN HAS LEARNED THAT, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CUBA, HOYTE TOLD CASTRO THAT GUYANA HOPED TO SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN CEMA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND LATIN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 016156

AMERICA. CASTRO COUNTERED THAT THIS ROLE WAS AND WOULD REMAIN EXCLUSIVELY CUBA'S.

EMBASSY COMMENT: GUYANA APPEARS TO BE TAKING A BIG STEP TOWARD THE EAST IN HOPES OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE AND POLITICAL PRESTIGE. THE COST IS STILL UNKNOWN, AS CUBA HAS CORNERED THE CEMA MARKET IN GUYANA'S ONLY COMMODITY, SUGAR. THE IDEA OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUYANA SERVING AS CEMA'S LINK IN LATIN AMERICA SEEMS TO US ABSURD, AND IS INDICATIVE OF THE CONFUSED THINKING THAT CHARACTERIZES ITS FOREIGN POLICY. (CONFIDENTIAL) GEORGETOWN 161 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) 162, 1/24.)

6. DE GUIRINGAUD'S VIEWS ON CYPRUS

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING FROM AMBASSADOR RUSH, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD STATED ON JANUARY 21 THAT:

--IN HIS OPINION, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS WASHED ITS HANDS OF CYPRUS AND SHOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION.

--INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ARE BOUND TO FAIL, AND ANY FORMULA PROPOSED FROM OUTSIDE MUST INCLUDE MAKARIOS' POLITICAL DEMISE.

--THE EC WILL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION ON CYPRUS IF THERE IS NO AMERICAN INITIATIVE. (SECRET) PARIS 2276 (EXDIS), 1/24.)
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